

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 17 are allowed.

Claim 18 is amended to better define over the Ima reference. Applicants' attorney, when commenting on the Ima reference on page 10 of the previous amendment, was inadvertently considering drawings from a different reference, and therefore the remarks made about the Ima cylinder rods were in error. Applicants' attorney apologizes for any inconvenience this error may have caused the Examiner.

Claim 18 as presently proposed includes the limitation that the shield comprises a channel shaped member opening towards the steering cylinder. The shield includes a protective wall having a length approximately equal to the rod end spacing and remains in protective alignment with both the cylinder barrel and the rods substantially over the range of steered positions. This structure is believed to be not shown or suggested in the references, including Ima, and provides improved cylinder barrel and cylinder rod protection over that of Ima.

Therefore, it is believed that the present amendment clearly puts the application in condition for allowance, and entry of the amendment with favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the present amendment does not put this application in condition for allowance, applicants' attorney requests that he call at the number listed below.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

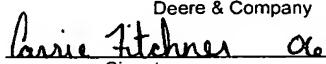
Respectfully,



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